

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of the stem cell bills on Wednesday following the opening of the Senate, there be 6½ hours remaining for debate, with the time controlled 1½ hours each: majority and Republican leaders or their designees, Senators HARKIN and BROWNBACK; with the time until 12:30 divided as follows: 90 minutes under the control of Senator HARKIN or his designee and 45 minutes each for Senators COLEMAN, ISAKSON, and BROWNBACK; that at 12:30 p.m., the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conference work periods; that at 2:15 p.m., the time until 5:15 p.m. be allocated in the same manner, with the final 30 minutes equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority leader controlling the final 15 minutes; that at 5:45 p.m., without further intervening action or debate, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of S. 5, to be followed by a vote on the passage of S. 30; that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to the second vote with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that the other provisions of the order governing the consideration of these bills remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 20, S. 372, the intelligence authorization bill on Thursday, April 12, following morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ISAKSON. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in view of the objection, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 20, S. 372, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 20, S. 372, Intelligence Authorization.

Harry Reid, Sherrod Brown, Claire McCaskill, Jack Reed, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Jeff Bingaman, Amy Klobuchar, Blanche L. Lincoln, Evan Bayh, Benjamin L. Cardin, Max Baucus, Pat Leahy, Chuck Schumer, Byron L. Dorgan, Ken Salazar, Dick Durbin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

#### UNITED STATES TAX CODE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, in the remaining time that I have allocated, I wish to talk about another subject, and that is the United States Tax Code. I believe that as I speak there are thousands of Americans, perhaps hundreds of thousands of Americans, now calculating their income tax for the year 2006.

Today is April the 10th. Tax returns have to be filed during the course of the next week to comply with the Federal tax laws, and this is a matter which is very much on the minds of thousands of Americans, perhaps even some watching the Senate on C-SPAN are in the process of compiling their tax returns. I will use this occasion to again introduce legislation for the flat tax.

The flat tax is a new structure of taxation of income in the United States under a model proposed by Professors Hall and Rabushka, from Stanford University, which would enable taxpayers to file their returns on a simple postcard, which I hold in my hand, where the tax return can be filled out in the course of 15 minutes. It has some 10 lines to fill out: Wages, personal allowance, number of dependents, mortgage interest deduction, charitable contributions, total for deductions, total taxable compensation, tax of 20 percent, tax withheld by employer, and the tax or refund due.

We have a system in the United States today where the statistics are astounding. There are some 582 tax forms to be filled out by Americans who file their tax returns. There are some 6.4 billion hours and \$265 billion each year spent in complying with the tax laws. The IRS Code and regulations fill more than 17,000 pages and have grown from some 744,000 words in 1955 to over 7 million words 50 years later in the year 2005.

Albert Einstein, genius that he was, is quoted as saying:

The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.

For a man who developed the theory of relativity, that is quite an indictment of the American tax system.

This change in the tax laws would be a godsend for the U.S. economy. Economists estimate that in the course of 7 years, the gross national product would increase by \$2 trillion, attributable solely to the efficiencies which would come about by relieving this enormous regulatory burden.

We talk frequently about the burden of regulation in the Federal Government, but the most onerous regulatory form is the tax form, or the tax regulations, which are a burden on all Americans. When you take a look at the cost of compliance, at \$265 billion a year, and take a look at the loopholes of some \$390 billion a year, which would be eliminated by the flat tax, and \$120 billion a year in tax fraud, with the \$10 billion a year it costs to run the Internal Revenue Service, it is obvious what an enormous savings there would be in the economy. Most importantly, there would be the savings to individual citizens who, on the average, require about 14 hours to fill out a tax return. Many citizens now hire specialists because the tax forms have become so complicated.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the flat tax return, plus the legislation itself, and my full statement on this subject be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, there is one additional comment on the flat tax return. I have incorporated in the statement an analysis of taxes which would be made by people at various levels of the income spectrum, and for a married couple with two children, with an annual income of \$40,000, an analysis of the comparison shows a decrease in taxes of \$1,217. For middle-class taxpayers, with comparable taxes, a slight increase but relatively little compared to the enormous savings that are involved.

I thank the Chair, and I thank my colleague from Iowa for yielding me the time, and I yield the floor.

#### EXHIBIT 1

##### TAX DAY 2007 FLOOR STATEMENT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this week, American taxpayers face another Federal income tax deadline. The date of April 15 (or April 16 this year) stabs fear, anxiety, and unease into the hearts of millions of Americans. Every year during "tax season," millions of Americans spend their evenings poring over page after page of IRS instructions, going through their records looking for information and struggling to find and fill out all the appropriate forms on their federal tax returns. Americans are intimidated by the sheer number of different tax forms and their instructions, many of which they may be unsure whether they need to file. Given the approximately 582 possible forms, not to mention the instructions that accompany them, simply trying to determine which form to file can in itself be a daunting and overwhelming task. In 2006, studies conducted by the Office of Management and Budget and the Tax Foundation found that American taxpayers, including